

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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2 A motorcycle accommodates an enlarged rear tire by interposing an intermediate shaft
3 between the transmission output gear and the rear wheel drive gear. The intermediate shaft
4 includes a power input gear disposed in the same vertical plane as the transmission output gear,
5 and a first drive belt couples the two together. The intermediate shaft also includes a power
6 output gear disposed in the same vertical plane as the rear wheel drive gear, and a second drive
7 belt couples the two together. The first vertical plane lies closer to the central longitudinal axis
8 of the support frame than does the second vertical plane, allowing the center of mass of the
9 engine and transmission to be maintained substantially along the central longitudinal axis. When
10 incorporated into a soft-tail type motorcycle frame, the intermediate shaft is coincident with the
11 pivot axis of the soft-tail suspension.